GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:332
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2005
NATIONAL HORTICULTURE MISSION
Deo Shri Bikram Keshari;Rao Shri Devarakonda Vittal

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a National Horticulture Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main features of the said mission;

(c) whether the Government has convened any meeting with the State Governments in this regard;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(e) the total funds earmarked for the purpose during 2005-06;

(f) the criteria laid down to provide funds to the States under the mission;

(g) whether any guidelines have been issued for utilizing this funds by the State Governments; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (h): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 332 DUE FOR REPLY ON 18TH APRIL, 2005.

(a) to (h): The National Horticulture Mission is expected to be launched shortly. The proposed Mission envisages an end to end approach for addressing the issues on Horticultural research, development, Post Harvest Management, processing and marketing with a view to improve production, productivity and income of farmers. The Mission proposes to ensure availability of good quality seeds and planting material, coverage of new areas with improved varieties by adopting a cluster approach, productivity improvement through hi-tech interventions, creation of infrastructure for post harvest management through pack houses, cold storage and Controlled Atmosphere storage units, setting up of food processing units and market.

A meeting of the State Agriculture Ministers was convened on 21.12.2004 at New Delhi during which the National Horticulture Mission was also discussed. During this meeting the State Agriculture Ministers were apprised of the need for ensuring preparedness including action on the following:

1. Identify the potential belt for each crop and concentrate on its holistic development.

2. Ensure an effective delivery mechanisms by identifying suitable implementing agencies.

3. Attention to processing and post harvest technology to reduce wastage.

4. Amend the APMC Act to facilitate marketing of horticulure produce, and

5. Initiate dialogue with financial institutions/NABARD for ensuring availability of credit to farmers.

An outlay of Rs.630.00 crore has been allocated for implementing the Mission during the year 2005-06. The funds are proposed to be

provided to the States on the basis of Action Plans for each year, keeping in view their potential available infrastructure and absorptive capacity.

Guidelines for the scheme will be issued, soon after the clearance of the scheme.